

Chapter Two:

Right of Way Preparation

Introduction

Whether you are working on the widening of an existing pavement section or the construction of a new roadway section through a new undisturbed right of way, certain preliminary investigations are required. The PE/PS will obtain right of way grants for all parcels of property purchased for the new work. These will also include grants for temporary right of ways. From the construction plans all right of way will be staked so that the limits of ownership are clearly visible and areas of temporary ownership for construction are known. It is important that all INDOT employees and the contractor are aware of the limits so that no disputes arise over work activities outside our property or destroying or disturbing private property. Any work on the right of way will have some involvement with public or private utilities.

Preliminary Investigation

During the completion of the plans, the Department will have notified all public utilities and all pipe line owners or other parties affected so that they may plan to move and relocate their existing facilities. It is important that all utilities be moved so we have no involvement or conflict between the public utility company and our construction. Delays caused to the contractor by public utility companies are reason for time extension and can cause contracts to be extended into another construction season.

Existing survey section corners and other survey controlled points and bench marks must be referenced for reestablishment when the contract is completed. The County Surveyor should be contacted to obtain the proper location of all section survey references.

Another area of importance, when starting a contract, is the investigation of existing underground drainage. Farm field tiles placed by farmers must be outletted or continued across the project limits so the drainage is uninterrupted. Legal county tiles and ditches must be maintained and preserved.

Clearing and
Grubbing
201.03

The PE/PS will coordinate with the County Surveyor or County Engineer to assure that all legal county drainage has been located.

If the contractor is required to assist in the investigation of underground drainage by excavation, this excavation is paid for as set out in the Standard Specifications, see section 203.

When the contractor arrives at the job site, one of the first orders of business is to clear the right of way in preparation for construction. This will consist of the removal and disposal of all vegetation and debris within the limits of construction which is in the way of the construction work. Any items within the right of way that are designated to remain in place will not be disturbed or damaged by the contractor. Trees, shrubs, and other items outside the construction limits must be repaired by the contractor at his expense.

Trees that are encountered within the construction limits may be removed. If the tree stump is cut off level with the ground and is a minimum of three feet below the final subgrade, it may be left in place. If trees are completely removed, the roots from the stump must be grubbed from the ground around the old stump. Any holes created in the embankment area must be backfilled satisfactorily up to the level of the existing ground prior to starting the new embankment. Burning perishable items may only be done if local laws, ordinances, and the contract permit burning. Perishable materials such as brush, stumps and sod will be removed from the right of way and disposed of at a location approved in advance by INDOT. This approval will include a plan for site restoration after the contract and a plan for prevention of stream sedimentation. Written permission to dispose of perishable materials must also be obtained from the property owner before you begin the disposal operation, see section 203.09

Sod must be removed from inside the embankment limits. No longer is it permissible to remove the sod and place it outside the limits of the road bed. The measurement and payment of clearing or right of way is a somewhat complicated area. It may be paid for by the acre, by a lump sum payment, by length, or by individual units. If tree removal is paid for by an individual unit, the tree is to be measured at a height of 24 inches above the ground. Any tree less than 4 inches in diameter will be classified as brush and no payment will be made.

Removal Of
Structures and
Obstructions
202.00

On most contracts you will have to deal with the removal of structures and obstructions. This will include the removal and disposal of buildings, fences, structures, old pavement, abandoned pipe lines, and any other obstructions that are not designated in the contract to remain in place.

Building and
Foundation
Removal
202.06

A contractor will not begin removing a building without written authority from INDOT. All buildings need to be checked prior to allowing a contractor to begin demolition. For buildings or houses that must be removed, the contractor will remove the buildings and the foundations or basement walls to an elevation one foot below original ground or one foot below subgrade elevation. All debris and trash that is accumulated in a basement or foundation must be removed. Any floor drains encountered must be plugged and any basement floors must be broken. All public utilities into the building must be shut off prior to beginning of demolition. It is the contractor's responsibility to notify the utility companies involved. Basements are to be backfilled with B Borrow in accordance with Section 203 of the Standard Specifications.

Wells, cisterns, septic tanks and other tanks will be cleaned and backfilled in an approved manner. Cisterns, septic tanks, and other tanks that cannot be satisfactorily backfilled will be removed. All abandoned wells will be sealed and backfilled in accordance with Indiana code. A copy of the Indiana code should be available to assure the PE/PS that the well is being properly backfilled.

Inspection and Removal
of Asbestos
202.06

For any material found that is suspected to be hazardous, the proper State, Federal and Local authorities must be contacted. All State, Federal and Local regulations must be followed in cleaning up the hazardous materials.

Bridge Removal
202.03

Clearing of the right of way may include the removal of bridges, culverts, and other drainage structures. Bridge foundations will be removed to the existing stream bed, and those portions outside the stream bed will be removed one foot below the original ground. The removal of a reinforced concrete arch will include the removal of all pavement and backfill of the arch.

Demolition of bridges by blasting is only permitted when allowed by Local ordinances. When a portion of a bridge structure is to be removed to widen an existing structure, care must be taken not to damage the portion of the existing structure to remain in place. If specified, broken up concrete from bridge removal may be used as rip rap on the contract.

Pipe and Sewer
Removal
202.04

Materials not specified to be salvaged, will become the property of the contractor. Sanitary and storm sewers no longer in use will be removed from under the roadway and shoulders. If these sewers are 24 inches in diameter or less, they may be plugged and left in place.

Pavement and
Miscellaneous
Removal
202.05

When the removal includes concrete pavement, sidewalks, curbs, and other miscellaneous concrete items, this concrete may be broken into pieces and used as rip rap on the contract or disposed of off the right of way. Pavement removal includes only existing public roads, streets, and alley pavements. Parking lots and driveways are not considered pavement removal. When a portion of pavement is to be removed, the limits of removal will be marked and sawed along these limits to assure a smooth line of removal. Any portion that is damaged outside the removal lines will be replaced at the contractor's expense. Sawing of pavement will be paid for under other items of the contract. Bituminous surface removal for bituminous resurfacing will be performed with a power driven milling or planing machine capable of accurately establishing a profile grade.

